

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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TAGS SEATO EPAP TH

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF MONKEYS

REF STATE 244644

THERE IS QUOTED BELOW A TRANSCRIPT OF MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AS RECORDED BY SECRETARY WITH MISS SHIRLEY MCGREAL ON AUGUST 16, 1974 RELATING TO MATTER

RAISED REFDEPTEL. I WOULD BE QUITE HAPPY TO HAVE THIS PUBLISHED IN TOTO IN WASHINGTON AND/OR BANGKOK UNLESS DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY BANGKOK SEES SOME OBJECTION:

QUOTE MISS SHIRLEY MCGREAL, WHO SAID SHE WAS WITH THE "BANGKOK POST", SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER ON THE TELEPHONE CONCERNING THE MATTER OF EXPORT OF SOME GIBBONS FROM THAILAND TO OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES,

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH PURPOSES. SHE

ALLUDED TO AN ARTICLE THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE "BANGKOK POST" (SOMETIME

AFTER AMBASSADOR UNGER'S DEPARTURE FROM BANGKOK) CONCERNING GIBBONS AND HOW THEY ARE BEING SMUGGLED OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO BE USED FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH ELSEWHERE AND HOW THEY ARE BEING USED AT THE SEATO LAB IN BANGKOK.

SHE SAID SHE HAD TAKEN IT UPON HERSELF TO LOOK INTO THE

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USE OF GIBBONS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES AT THE SEATO LAB AND

ALSO AT DAVIS (UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA), AND QUERIED THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT HIS ROLE, IF ANY, IN THE EXPORT AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME IN THE PAST OF A NUMBER OF GIBBONS TODAY FOR RESEARCH

PURPOSES. SHE SAID THAT SHE "KNEW THE AMBASSADOR'S GIBBONS IN BANGKOK VERY WELL HAVING OFTEN STOPPED TO VISIT THEM" AND FELT THAT HE, AS A GIBBON OWNER, WOULD NOT HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ALLOWING THE EXPORT OF GIBBONS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES HAD HE BEEN AWARE OF THE PURPOSE.

SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN SHE QUESTIONED COLONEL (NAME UNCLEAR) AT SEATO ABOUT HOW THE SHIPMENT WAS MADE TO DAVIS HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR UNGER HAD PERSONALLY "ARRANGED" FOR THE SHIPMENT, AND THAT WHILE SHE REALLY DIDN'T BELIEVE THE AMBASSADOR HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT BECAUSE HE HIMSELF HAD SOME GIBBONS AND THAT THE COLONEL WAS ONLY SEEKING TO SHIFT THE BLAME, SHE WISHED AMBASSADOR UNGER TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE STORY. AMBASSADOR UNGER TOLD HER THAT HIS HAVING GIBBONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, AND THAT ANY ANSWER HE MIGHT GIVE WOULD REALLY BE UNFAIR AS HE WOULD BE ANSWERING WITHOUT AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK HIS FILES AND ONLY FROM MEMORY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE A LONG TIME AGO. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS RECOLLECTION WAS THAT HE HAD MERELY BEEN ASKED TO CONFIRM THAT THE SHIPMENT OF APPROXIMATELY TWELVE GIBBONS TO THE LABORATORY AT DAVIS WAS BEING MADE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE A PROJECT ALREADY UNDERWAY, ON WHICH A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY HAD ALREADY BEEN SPENT, AND WHICH WAS HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO HAVE GIBBONS SHIPPED OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT, NOR HAD HE DONE SO. MISS MCGREAL SAID THAT SHE HAD QUERIED DR. PONG REGARDING THIS PARTICULAR SHIPMENT AND THAT HE SAID NO EXPORT PERMIT HAD BEEN ISSUED, AND SHE WONDERED HOW THE SHIPMENT HAD BEEN MADE. THERE FOLLOWED AN INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION OF HOW THE GIBBONS MAY HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO DAVIS.

MISS MCGREAL DESCRIBED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WHAT SHE SAID WERE THE KINDS OF EXPERIMENTS BEING CARRIED ON BOTH AT SEATO AND DAVIS ON GIBBONS, BABY GIBBONS IN PARTICULAR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOW THEY ARE CAPTURED, ILLEGALLY EXPORTED, ETC. THE AMBASSADOR CLOSED THE INTERVIEW BY MENTIONING AGAIN THAT ONE MUST ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE VERY REAL BENEFITS TO HUMAN BEINGS DERIVED FROM EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS. END QUOTE. UNGER

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